

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the above-identified application, of which claims 19-28 are withdrawn. Claims 1-18 were rejected. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are at issue in the above-identified application. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection since Gill et al. is no longer available as prior art against the above-cited reference.

Since Gill was filed in the United States, the earliest date in which it can be used as a reference is as of its filing date of April 6, 2001. The above-referenced application was filed on March 30, 2001 claiming priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-097944 filed on March 30, 2000. In order to perfect Applicant's claim of priority, Applicants have attached a certified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-097944. Since the priority date for the above-referenced application is March 30, 2000, Gill et al. cannot be cited against it. Additionally, since the above-reference application has a U.S. filing date of March 30, 2001, which is *before* the filing date of Gill et al., Gill et al. cannot be cited as prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to claims 1-18.

Objection To Specification

The title has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Gill et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,211). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Enclosing certified

translation of Japanese Application No. 2000-097944, filed on March 30, 2000. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 23, 2004

By: 

David Rozenblat
Registration No. 47,044
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000

14392305